



Port Community Information Bulletin # 02-03
Marine Safety Office (813) 228-2189
Tampa, Florida

Effective Date: January 7, 2003
Expiration Date: TBD

**This Bulletin Reflects Amendment to PCIB 15-02 And 30-02,
Security Guard Standards For Vessel With Undocumented
Crewmembers Or Unauthorized Persons.**

As you are aware, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) requires a Security Plan for both coastwise vessels and for foreign arrivals with non-entrant crewmembers on board. The Captain of the Port, United States Coast Guard MSO Tampa, issued PCIB Bulletins #15-02 and #30-02 addressing "Security Guard Standards for Vessels With Undocumented Crewmembers or Unauthorized Persons" arriving in this jurisdiction. These standards were developed by the Port Security Committee and adopted by the Tampa Bay Harbor Safety Committee. As a result, it is a requirement that personnel with arrest and detention authority provide security for designated vessels unless INS has written documentation that such personnel are not available. Only in these rare instances can Florida licensed armed "Class G" Guards be utilized as an alternative to provide security services.

Effective immediately, if your security plan is going to mandate guard(s) to prevent the likelihood of possible absconders or deserters, INS must receive written notification from the appropriate Law Enforcement Agency (i.e. Hillsborough County Sheriff, Manatee County Sheriff, Tampa Police Department, etc.) that they are under contract with your Shipping Agency or the Owner/Operator to provide 24/7 security duties while your vessel is in port. INS will not relay "CLEARANCE" to the USCG until such time as they have received faxed notification from the contracted law enforcement agency. Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office will act as the "Clearing House" for the Port of Tampa and Manatee County Sheriff's Office for Port Manatee, for all requests for security guard services as outlined in the previous PCIB's. If INS receives written notification from the appropriate law enforcement agency that they do not have the available resources to provide the requested security guard services for a particular vessel, then and only then will INS entertain contracts from Security firms to provide "Class G" Guards. Again, every security plan shall include written notification from the respective law enforcement agency before the security plan is approved. Once a security plan is approved agents should expect written or verbal notification from INS.

Present regulations require that the USCG and INS receive 96 hour notification of vessel arrivals. Local shipping agents should also provide this same advance notification to the local law enforcement agencies that you will be utilizing and contracting per your Security Plan so that they will have the opportunity to schedule their staff in advance as much as possible. Likewise, it is requested that you keep them apprised of any changes of vessel arrival and departure times.

Your continued cooperation in assisting the various federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies as well as the Ports of Tampa, Manatee, and St. Petersburg in helping to keep our homeland safe is greatly appreciated. Should you desire to discuss the particulars of this PCIB in greater detail, you can contact

Ron Johnson, INS Area Port Director at (813) 348-1700. Lieutenant Pennant is the point of contact for the Coast Guard at (813) 228-2189 ext 152.

Security plans must be faxed to INS at (813) 348-1702 and to the Coast Guard at (813) 228-2399.

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J. M. FARLEY
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port